

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /077 W

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R 171319Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6629

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH

SUBJECT: BRITISH FCO REMARKS ON RHODESIAN SITUATION

1. DECEMBER 16, FCO DESK OFFICER PETER BARLOW SAID THERE WAS LITTLE TO REPORT ON RHODESIAN SITUATION AT PRESENT. HE BELIEVES THAT SMITH HAS AND WILL RETAIN THE UPPER HAND IN ANY DEALINGS WITH THE BLACK RHODESIAN FACTIONS AS LONG AS THEY SEEM TO REMAIN DIVIDED ON THEIR GOALS AND THE MEANS OF ACHIEVING THEM. HE SAID THE FCO HAD RECEIVED WORD ON DECEMBER 16 THAT THE BLACK RHODESIANS HAD AGREED THEY SHOULD HAVE A CONFERENCE TO ARRIVE AT A COMMON NEGOTIATING POSITION BEFORE ANY CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE WITH SMITH REGIME.

2. BARLOW BELIEVES THAT SMITH HAS ONLY GONE AS FAR AS HE HAS IN APPEASING THE BLACK LEADERS BECAUSE OF PRES-
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SURE FROM SOUTH AFRICA. UNLESS FURTHER PRESSED BY VOR-

STER, SMITH WILL ONCE AGAIN STALL FOR TIME. BARLOW FEELS THAT A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE MAY BE FIVE OR SIX MONTHS IN THE FUTURE AT LEAST.

3. BARLOW INDICATED THAT DURING THE FOREIGN SECRETARY'S TRIP TO AFRICA AT THE END OF THE MONTH, HE MAY HAVE TALKS WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE BLACK RHODESIAN LEADERS. THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION TO DATE THAT SMITH IS AT ALL INTERESTED IN HAVING BRITISH BROKER A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE ONCE IT TAKES PLACE.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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